

What Is Claimed:

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1. An automated transaction apparatus for processing a transaction with a user, said transaction including at least a first process and a second process, comprising:

a line unit for enabling communications with a first data processing device connected via a private line, and a second data processing device connected via a commercial line; and

a controller for selecting said first data processing device for said first process and said second data processing device for said second process, and controlling said transaction in accordance with the selected data processing device in each process .

2. The automated transaction apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said first process includes a process for communicating data of relatively high security level with said first data processing device, and said second process includes a process for communicating data of relatively low security level with said second data processing device.

3. The automated transaction apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said transaction is the sale of merchandise to a user, and said first process includes a process for authenticating a personal identification number of a card having the function of settling a price of purchase made by a user, and said second process includes a process for introducing merchandise for sale to a user. credit card

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4. The automated transaction apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said controller encrypts data related to said transaction requiring processing by said first data processing device,

generates an encryption key for decoding said encrypted data, sends said encryption key to said first data processing device, sends said encrypted data to said second data processing device, and causes said second data processing device to send said encrypted data to said first data processing device.

5. The automated transaction apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said controller encrypts data related to said transaction requiring processing by said second data processing device, generates an encryption key for decoding said encrypted data, sends said encryption key to said first data processing device, sends said encrypted data to said second data processing device, and causes said first data processing device to send said encryption key to said second data processing device.